VI. *An Account of a* BOOK. Guilhelmi Muſgrave *Reg. Societ.* utriuſque *Socii*, GETA BRITANNICUS. *Accedit Domus* Severianæ *Synopſis Chronologica: & de Icuncula quondam M. Regis* Ælfredi *Diſſertatio.* 8vo. Iſcæ Dumnoniorum. MDCCXV.

THE Author, having ſome [1] Years ſince publiſh'd a Comment on *Julius Vitalis* his Epitaph, which, (together with his Monument) is to be ſeen at *Bath*; does now preſent the publick with another Volume of *Belgic* Antiquities; intending hereby, to illuſtrate part of a Statue, which was found likewiſe near that City, and is at this time immured near the Monument aforeſaid, at the eaſtern End of the Abby-Church, looking toward the Grove.

This Fragment of an Equeſtrian Statue, is in *Baſſe Releife*: The Rider has in his right Hand a *Haſta pura*, and a *Parma* in his left; as in *Fig.* 1. of the Book. It appears from [2] *Dio* that *Caius* and *Lucius*, Cæſars, (the Nephews, and adopted Sons of *Auguſtus*) had each of them a *Parma* and an *Haſta* given him: and there being no Inſtance of this Honour paid to any of an inferiour Rank among the *Romans*, but only to ſuch as were of very great Quality; if not to *Cæſars* only; we are from hence be allowed to think, *That this Statue repreſented ſome Perſon of that Quality.*

But to diſcover the particular Perſon, (if it might be done) the Author compared a very good Draught he had procured of this Horſeman, with ſuch *Roman* Coyns,

[1] Iſcæ Dunmon: MDCCXI.
[2] Lib. LV.

as He could meet with. This Compariſon ſhewed a great Reſemblance between the Face in the Statue, and that in two of *Geta*'s Coyns.

This Argument, drawn from the Similitude of Faces (of great force to determine the Reader's Judgment in favour of *Geta*) is farther confirmed by the Horſe; a Creature of which *Geta* was very fond; inſomuch, as that He affected to be repreſented under the Figure of *Caſtor*, (as the *Roman* Emperors often were under the Figures of their Gods) of whom it is ſaid, *Caſtor gaudet Equis*; — Of this Figure there is in [3] *Oiſelius*, a Coyn of *Geta*'s, very much to this purpoſe; repreſented *Tab.* IV. fig. 5. of this Book.

Theſe things bring to mind, the Authority which *Geta* had in *South-Britain*: where (as [4] *Herodian* affirms) all matters were under his Adminiſtration, during the Stay which *Severus* and *Caracalla* made in the North; which was a Year, or more. In this time, *Geta* had it in his Power, to do many things, in favour of Cities and Countreys, here in the South. The great Generoſity of his Mind prompted Him to publick Works; ſuch as are, to this day, atteſted by [5] Inſcriptions, with his Name in them: and it is highly probable, [That this Statue was erected to *Geta* on ſome ſuch account]

If this be granted, (as from the concurrence of ſo much, and ſo good Teſtimony, it ſeems highly probable) here is a large and pleaſant View opened into Antiquity; not of late taken notice of by any Writer: It ſhews, that *Geta* was a great Benefactor to *old Bath*; either by laying, in a perfect Moraſs, the Foundation of that Town; or by preſerving the *Hot-Springs* entire, from the influx of

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[3] Tab. XLII. 1.
[4] Lib. III. Sect. XLVIII.
[5] *Gruteri* Theſ. Inſcriptionum, pag. CLVII. 2, 3, 4, 5.

other

other Waters; or both: Works of great Munificence, and becoming *Geta*'s Spirit. By theſe, or ſome ſuch Ways, it is probable, this People was obliged to *Geta*; but no one is more probable, than that of preſerving the *Aquæ Calidæ*; which were in thoſe days ſo famous, as to give a Denomination to the place. It is well known, That *Rome* had her *Thermæ Severianæ* and *Antoninianæ*, ſo called from their reſpective Founders; the former being built by *Severus*, the Father; the latter by *Antoninus*, the Brother, of *Geta*: ſo that *to take care of Baths*, was a ſort of Greatneſs, that Family ſeemed to delight in; and *Geta* may reaſonably be ſuppoſed, to have his ſhare of this Delight.

From the great probability of this Opinion, the Author has, out of Love to his native Country, and the Honour due to *Geta*, collected and put together, what He can meet with relating to that Emperor. He has made a new Edition of *Geta*'s Life, from the *Hiſtoriæ Auguſtæ Scriptores*; reſtoring it to its true Author, *Julius Capitolinus*; and explaining it, with the Notes of *Caſaubon*, *Gruter*, and *Salmaſius*; to which he has added ſome of his own. He has reprinted all the Inſcriptions he can meet with, of *Geta*'s, and many of his Coyns; with ſhort Notes on both.

After all this, He is not ſo far engaged in this Opinion, but that if, (by any Inſcription on the Baſis of this Statue, or any other teſtimony) it ſhall hereafter appear, that this Fragment deſerves another Explication, he ſhall readily comply with any ſuch clearer Teſtimony: being no way diſpoſed, to give farther credit to this broken Monument, than ſhall anſwer the imperfect Condition it is now in.

To this Diſſertation, *de Geta Britannico*, He has added the Chronology of his illuſtrious Houſe; ſhewing, how his Father, *Severus*, from a private Gentleman in *Africa*,

came by degrees to be Emperor of *Rome*; and indeed one of the Greateſt, that ever *Rome* had: How He, with his two Sons, *Baſſianus* and *Geta*, (three *Roman* Emperors) reſided, at one and the ſame time, here in *Britain*) and from hence ſent their Imperial Edicts, Orders, and Diſpatches, into all parts of the Empire: and after an amazing Greatneſs of about twenty four Years, and a Courſe of almoſt all Virtues and Vices, at length tumbled down; ſubmitting to the Accidents and Fate of other Men; and were all buried at *Rome*, in the *Septizodium* built by *Severus*.

To theſe Memoirs of *Geta*, the Author has ſubjoyned a Diſcourſe, concerning that curious *Cimelium*, which was, ſome Years ſince, found at *Athelney* in *Somerſet*. It did belong to K. *Ælfred*, and is now in the Poſſeſſion of Col *Palmer* of *Fairfield*, in that County. Beſide the critical uſe made of it, by the learned [1] Dr. *Hickes*, our Author writes of it, as *an undeniable Inſtance of the uſe of Images, coming from the Heathens into the Chriſtian Church.*

The Book is adorned with ſeveral Cuts, of *the Broken Statue* at *Bath*, of *two of* Geta's *Silver-Coyns*, of the *Septizodium Severi*, (out of *Perac*) and three ſides of the κειμήλιον *Ælfredi*.

[1] In Theſauro Ling. Septentrionalium non ita pridem edito.

FINIS.

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